

Application/Control Number: 10/003,094
Art Unit: 2655

Docket No.: 2000-0600

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient, the multi-media message being created by a sender for delivery by an animated entity, the method comprising:

recording an audio message from the sender;

after recording the audio message from the sender, converting the audio message to a text message and presenting a text version of the audio message to the sender;

receiving a choice of one of a plurality of animated entities to deliver the message;

conforming the audio message to movements associated with the animated entity to create a multi-media message; and

delivering the multi-media message to the recipient with the animated entity speaking the recorded audio message from the sender, wherein

the multi-media message is delivered to the recipient upon approval of the text message from the sender.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient of claim 1, wherein the multi-media message is sent as an e-mail to the recipient.

4. (Original) The method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient of claim 1, wherein the multi-media message is sent as an instant message to the recipient.

Application/Control Number: 10/003,094
Art Unit: 2655

Docket No.: 2000-0600

5. (Original) The method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient of claim 1, wherein the multi-media message is sent over the Internet to the recipient
6. (Original) The method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient of claim 1, wherein the multi-media message is sent to the recipient via a wireless network.
7. (Currently Amended) A method of sending a multi-media message from a sender to a recipient using an animated entity, the sender choosing the animated entity from a plurality of animated entities, the method comprising:
- recording a sender audio message;
 - associating the sender audio message with the animated entity to create the multi-media message;
 - using an automatic speech recognition system to convert the audio message to a text message;
 - presenting the text message to the sender in textual form;
 - after receiving approval from the sender for the text message, using the text message to coordinate mouth movements for the animated entity; and
 - processing the multi-media message for the recipient such that the animated entity speaks the sender audio message.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Original) The method of sending a multi-media message of claim 7, wherein the multi-media message is sent over the Internet.

Application/Control Number: 10/003,094
Art Unit: 2655

Docket No.: 2000-0600

10. (Original) The method of sending a multi-media message of claim 7, wherein the multi-media message is sent in an instant message.

11. (Original) The method of sending a multimedia message of claim 7, wherein the multi-media message is sent over a wireless network.

12-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a synthesized voice with sender voice characteristics, the method comprising:

receiving an audio recording, associated with a message, from a sender;

after receiving the audio recording, using an automatic speech recognizer and presenting a text version of the audio recording to the sender for approval;

parameterizing the audio recording into audio parameters after receiving the approval of the sender; and

using the audio parameters, synthesizing a voice for delivery of the message that is not the sender's voice but includes at least one sender voice characteristic.

19. (Original) The method of providing a synthesized voice with sender voice characteristics of claim 18, wherein the at least one sender voice characteristic is one of an accent, voice inflection, pitch, rhythm, or dialect.

20-21. (Canceled)

22. (Original) The method of providing a synthesized voice with sender voice characteristics of claim 18, wherein parameterizing the audio recording into audio parameters

Application/Control Number: 10/003,094
Art Unit: 2655

Docket No.: 2000-0600

further comprises using an alignment program for segmenting the audio recording into phonemes and labeling the audio recording with the phonemes, duration, pitch, stress and other parameters.

23-24. (Canceled)